



**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services  
Department**  
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## Influenza Situational Summary – week ending January 31, 2015

### Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during 1/25/2015 through 1/30/2015 – No increases in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory”-related complaints were observed.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during 1/25/2015 through 1/30/2015 – On some days, sales of over the counter (OTC) medications for adult cold relief or cough/cold were above the reporting threshold at the county level (one day) and for one or two specific zip codes (three days).*

### Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Network - percentage of all outpatient visits due to an influenza-like illness

- *Travis County – for the week ending 1/24/2015: 6.7% (base line is 2.0%)*
- *Texas – For the week ending 1/24/2015: 11% (base line is 5.4%); statewide this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/24/2015: 4.4% (base line is 2.0%); this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014. This percentage peaked at 6.1% the week ending December 27, 2014.*

### Laboratory surveillance (RT-PCR – real time- polymerase chain reaction)

- *State of Texas – for the week ending 1/24/2015; 21% of specimens collected through laboratory surveillance were positive for an influenza virus; a majority (84%) were influenza A viruses.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/24/2015; 20% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, the vast majority (93%) are positive for influenza A viruses*

### Institutional Outbreaks

- *A cluster of ill residents with respiratory illnesses testing positive for influenza A virus in one long-term care facility was reported. Approximately 10% of the residents in the facility were ill.*

### School closures/outbreaks

- *None.*

### Influenza-associated mortality

- *There have been 14 deaths (listing influenza as the cause of death on death certificate) among Austin/Travis County residents during the current flu season; 11 of the 14 persons were adults 50 years of age or older. The number of influenza-associated deaths reported during the prior five influenza seasons among Austin/Travis County residents ranged from 2 to 22.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/24/2015; 9.1% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for this week.*